



December 1, 2021

TO: State Board of Technical Education

FROM: Michael Cartney, President

RE: Lake Area Technical College: Oct to Dec Notes for State Board of Tech Ed

1. **LATC Strategic Advisory Council (SAC) dashboard (October 12).** Quarterly LATC provide its leadership boards the progress and status around seven Key Performance Indicators: Enrollment (Students); Financial Health; Plant Capacity and Conditions; Human Resources; Industry – Regional Relationships; and Assessment. A goal for each KPI is provided as well as measures of success. The October 12 dashboard, presented to the joint meeting of the SAC with the Watertown School board, is attached (Attch 1).
2. **Aspen Institute's College Excellence Program Speakers Bureau.** President Mike Cartney will be part of the 2022 Aspen Institute CEP's national speakers bureau on the value of post-graduation outcomes. The college's sharing their stories, the Aspen Institute hopes to convince community colleges of the need to show higher education's "goal of delivering more than a credential—the promise of delivering a career—and we need to help those leaders see the connection of this goal and their commitment to delivering equitable outcomes for Black, Hispanic, Indigenous, and lower-income students."
3. **In the news:**
  - a. Keloland story on Equity:  
<https://www.keloland.com/news/eye-on-keloland/eye-on-keloland-picking-your-own-path/>
  - b. Lumina clip on advising:  
<https://www.luminafoundation.org/focus-magazine/spring-2021/at-this-south-dakota-college-advising-and-teaching-go-hand-in-hand/>  
[https://www.luminafoundation.org/focus-magazine/spring-2021/video-lake-area-technical-college-supports-students-with-children-through-enhanced-mentoring/?fbclid=IwAR0KOt83m0m9j9CSEnwy4LHUeedJwHfxCzyFrm2OL7RaVxn9dq\\_YhTNBp38](https://www.luminafoundation.org/focus-magazine/spring-2021/video-lake-area-technical-college-supports-students-with-children-through-enhanced-mentoring/?fbclid=IwAR0KOt83m0m9j9CSEnwy4LHUeedJwHfxCzyFrm2OL7RaVxn9dq_YhTNBp38)
  - c. Dakota News story on Electronic Vehicles:  
<https://www.dakotanewsnow.com/2021/11/30/lake-area-adds-new-electric-hybrid-vehicle-technician-program/>
  - d. News clip on Drone Racing and Esports: <https://www.keloland.com/news/local-news/lake-area-tech-launching-drone-racing-and-esports-program/>

4. **Good Jobs Challenge Grant.** The American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) reached out to LATC and asked LATC to join their national-level consortium in applying for the US Dept of Labor grant in IT-related (which includes advanced manufacturing) occupations. LATC was already working on a solo application for a Good Jobs Grant in Healthcare, Transportation, and Energy production.
5. **Midwest Higher Education Compact Commissioners Meeting.** Due to the legislative Special Sessions, Mike was the only commissioner from SD able to attend the commissioner meeting face to face. One main topic of the forum was the need for Higher Education to engage in workforce development. LATC has been invited to present on the topic at next year's forum, and to work with MHEC staff on a report and best practices document. SD Senator and fellow commissioner VJ Smith was nominated to be the MHEC Treasurer. He was unanimously approved.
6. **LATC Career Expo – 28 October.** Focused on helping students align their post-graduation employment, the Career Expo brings future employers, current Lake Area Tech student and alumni together under one roof. This year a record 160 businesses are registered for the Career Expo breaking a record set in 2019 with 139 businesses. Of the 160 businesses, 25 will be joining the Career Expo for the first time with some traveling as far as Indiana to visit with Lake Area Tech students.
7. **I'm IN Capital Campaign.** – LATC Foundation's "I'M IN" campaign is moving to the next round of asks. The new Lake Area Tech Foundation Cornerstone Society will give industry and individuals an opportunity to receive recognition for gifts to the LATC Foundation at a level just below naming rights but above today's Impact Partner level of giving. Levels will be as follows: Pillar - \$500k; Keystone - \$750k; Pinnacle \$1M. Commitments may be remitted over the course of five years. Recognition for each level will be for a period of 10 years. In addition to Cornerstone Society levels, members will also receive benefits of Impact Partners.
8. **New Offerings in the works.** Lake Area tech will be adding a 3<sup>rd</sup> year option to our Automotive Tech degree providing certification in Electric Vehicles technology. Additionally, we have been asked to join Prairie Lakes Health Care System's grant request to establish a Surgical Tech degree program for NE South Dakota.
9. **Lake Area Tech joins committee for Resilient Communities.** The Resilient Community framework provides a comprehensive outline and tools for community coalitions in order to build and sustain resiliency in our community. The goal is to ensure safe, stable, and loving environments in which to grow and thrive. The framework outlines strategies for communities to follow in order to put programs, policies, and trainings in place to help build resiliency for our children and families. As a result, community members and professionals from all sectors become trauma-aware and can help combat adversity for children. The outcome is a stronger, healthier community. Watertown will be the second **Resilient Community** in SD.

- 10. E-Sports and Drone Racing** - Lake Area Tech will be joining collegiate athletics with ESports and Drone Racing. An organizational meeting is scheduled on October 21 for students who are interested in committing to play. Initially, we will be playing as a “club” sport to work out all of the nuances and will plan to go forward as a college sport fall of 2022. An ESports and Drone Racing Committee made up of staff, faculty and students have been working on the concept for the past year. They have developed a state-of-the-art ESports and Drone Racing Lab for practice and competition. Future plans are to tie in high school and middle school opportunities as well as STEM events and camps.
- 11. The Net is open** – LATC is fortunate to have an area that will now be home to the student “wraparound” services. The area has been named *The Net* to align with the overall “lake” theme and to mimic a “net” catching the students who need the assistance. Services housed in this area are counseling, diversity, inclusion and equity, retention, student activities, job placement and the food pantry. *The Net* is located next to the library.
- 12. Drone Camp is coming** – Lake Area Tech will be hosting the first ever Drone and Coding Camp on Dec. 3 from 9AM-2PM. The camp will provide hands-on learning in the areas of drones, coding, circuitry, 3D printing and robotics. Attendees will also participate in drone racing and will be able to get their UAS Safety Test. The camp is open to grades 9-12.
- 13. Spring 2022 Upskill Program:** Lake Area Tech is continuing to offer the Community Health Worker, Programming, and Welding Upskill Certificates in Spring 2022. With the flexibility to add short-term certificate options, Lake Area Tech is expanding the Upskill program to add the Commercial Driver’s License and Emergency Medical Technician industry recognized certificates. Additionally, Lake Area Tech is partnering with the South Dakota Department of Corrections to offer the Manufacturing Certificate program at the Women’s Prison in Pierre
- 14. Mentor-Connect Program:** The National Science Foundation accepted Lake Area Tech to the 2022 Mentor-Connect Cohort. The Mentor-Connect program provides technical Assistance and mentoring support to colleges as they prepare an Advanced Technological Education (ATE) grant proposal. Mentor-Connect has previously mentored 9 cohorts of 2-year college teams representing 185 colleges and including 377 faculty and 189 grant writers and/or administrators. Among these participants, 70% have been successful in receiving ATE grant awards with their first proposal for a small grant for institutions new to ATE.

## Attachment 1: October 12 Quarerly DashBoard

Lake Area Technical College Quarterly Dashboard: October 2021

Indicator	Goal	Measures	Current Value	Previous Value	Trends	Planned Actions/ Notes
Enrollment	Increase enrollment and retention to grow the South Dakota workforce pipeline by engaging diverse populations to make progress towards reaching equilibrium with industry demand	<b>Enrollment:</b> 3,000 students by 2025 (unduplicated headcount). FTE stable above 2000, increasing as new facilities come online <b>Retention:</b> >80% <b>Placement:</b> >98%	<b>Enrollment</b> <b>2021-2022:</b> Fall 2190 (1005 new students in programs) <b>Retention</b> (Fall 2021): 79% <b>Placement</b> (2020 Graduates): 99%	<b>Enrollment</b> <b>2020-2021:</b> Fall 2217, Spring 2608, Summer 2641 (Unduplicated Headcount) <b>FTE: 1960</b> <b>Retention</b> (Fall 2020): 84% <b>Placement</b> (2019 Graduates): 99%	<b>Enrollment Trend</b> Increase of 39.5% (headcount) since 2014 (Headcount/FTE): AY20-21: 2641/1960 (+1.0%) AY19-20: 2618/1995 (-0.34%) AY18-19: 2624/2032 (+5.7%) AY17-18: 2487/1947 (+1.4%) AY16-17: 2451/1962 (+11.5%)	<b>Fall 2022 New Programs and Program Expansions:</b> Electric Vehicles Certificate, Surgical Technology <b>Upskill 2.0 Certificates:</b> Added Pierre Correctional Facility manufacturing technology certificate - January 2022 <b>Community Health Worker:</b> Partnership with the Department of Health to increase online certificate enrollment through grant and develop a corporate education, non-credit option
Fiscal Health	Funding to meet growing operational requirements with needed expansion	<b>Operational Budget:</b> Funding for equipment and operations with reserve >15% <b>Facilities Expansion:</b> Funding secured for the execution of the Campus Plan	<b>FY23 Legislative Request:</b> <b>Per Student Allocation:</b> 3% increase <b>Instructor Industry Adjustment:</b> Distribution method change, 3% + \$2.3M fair market <b>Maintenance and Repair:</b> Increase to \$1,544,973 (+\$325,362), goal of 1% by 2024 <b>Equipment</b> (66%/33%): \$6.54M state, \$9.76M total <b>Tuition Buy-down:</b> \$10/credit <b>Facility Funding:</b> \$7M grant for Archway	<b>FY22 State Allocation:</b> <b>Per Student Allocation &amp; Instructor Adjustment:</b> 2.4% increase <b>Maintenance and Repair:</b> Increase to cover FY20 and FY21, progress towards 1% by 2024 <b>Bond Debt Buy down:</b> \$21,700,000 <b>\$5M Equipment (66%/33%):</b> \$3,366,196 <b>Tuition Buy-down:</b> \$10/credit <b>State Tuition Increase:</b> \$3 per credit	<b>Tuition and Fees:</b> 4th highest nationally; Approximately 70% of the cost is covered by the students. <b>Campus Plan:</b> Bond fund availability is limited though the buy down proposal is promising. Capital Campaign is key to expanding the facilities to meet workforce demand without increasing financial burden on students.	<b>FY23 Legislative Priorities:</b> Legislative pre-meetings to discuss fiscal priorities: 1. \$7M facility funds, 2. PSA increase, 3. Instructor Adjustment <b>Student Affordability:</b> Priority for state to increase access to technical education.
Plant Capacity & Condition	Safe, well-maintained facilities conducive to learning and sufficient to meet workforce demand/student population	<b>Maintenance and Repair (M&amp;R):</b> Invest 2% of replacement value annually <b>Campus Plan:</b> Implement the campus plan to accommodate student growth	<b>Fall 2022 Projects:</b> The net student service area is complete. North parking lot near completion. <b>Prairie Lakes Healthcare Center of Learning:</b> Planning stages for Dental Assisting remodel. <b>Campus Plan:</b> Permission to bid the Diesel Expansion in November. Design stage of Archway building is underway with projected bid date in early spring.	<b>Prairie Lakes Healthcare Center of Learning:</b> Medical Assisting Remodel complete <b>Campus Plan:</b> Developing construction documents for the Diesel Expansion and Archway buildings is underway with projected bid dates of November and January respectively. <b>Summer 2021 Projects:</b> Shipping and Receiving Yard complete, MET Roof, North Parking Lot, Student Services Office Complex, Demolition of Properties, Student Center paint refresh.	<b>Enrollment:</b> Campus facilities at the capacity projected for 2046 according to the previous campus plan (2008). <b>Campus Plan:</b> Next phases of the Campus Plan are building the Diesel Expansion and Archway buildings. Aviation and Custom Paint and Fabrication remain. <b>Maintenance and Repair:</b> State funding increase towards a goal of 2% replacement value annually	<b>Short-term Accommodations:</b> Implementing short-term plans to accommodate student growth, including off campus locations. Fie land purchased for the Agriculture department. <b>Outreach Locations:</b> Partnerships with employers and communities to offer workforce development training through facilities in the region. Apprenticeship programs to assist with industry demand for workforce training.
Human Resources	Highly qualified, quality staff and faculty that enhance Lake Area Tech's culture of caring sustained by controlled retirements and deliberate hiring practices	<b>Turnover Rate:</b> <10% <b>HLC Requirements:</b> Meet HLC Qualified Faculty Guidelines <b>Staff/Student Ratio:</b> Adequate to support enrollment growth	<b>FY22 Employee Retention</b> Three resignations, two in custodial. <b>FY22 Employee Recruitment</b> Competing for employees in entry-level jobs in maintenance and food service is a challenge. Adding flexibility to positions to attract candidates.	<b>Employee Tenure</b> (Fall 2021): 3 years or less (39%) 4-7 years (20%) 8 years or more (41%) <b>Retirement:</b> 55+ years old (26.3%, 56/218) Decrease from 32.41%	<b>Turnover Rate:</b> FY21 29/205 (14.1%) FY20 19/208 (9.1%) FY19 23/205 (11.2%) FY18 29/202 (14.4%) FY17 21/202 (10.4%) FY16 14/202 (6.9%) <b>Employee Retention Rate:</b> 86.4% (9/1-8/31)	<b>Culture:</b> Focus on resilience training and mental health to retain faculty and staff as we transition to back to normal after the COVID-19 pandemic. <b>Faculty Professional Development:</b> Enhancing professional development in teaching and learning for new and continuing faculty.
Industry – Regional Relationships	Engaged regionally in mutually beneficial partnerships resulting in successful corporate education offerings, Capital Campaign, Build Dakota program, and scholarship base	<b>Scholarship Funds:</b> 10% increase in overall funds for scholarships, campus improvements, and program enhancement <b>Build Dakota:</b> Meet or exceed cohort target number <b>Corporate Education:</b> Financially self-sustaining and a 10% increase in the number of companies and individuals served <b>Foundation:</b> Financially self-sustaining, successful f'm in Capital Campaign	<b>Corporate Education (1st Quarter):</b> Companies Served: 94 Individuals Served: 286 <b>Capital Campaign:</b> Embarking on the community engagement phase of the campaign through Impact Partners, Cornerstone Society, & Alumni & Friends Campaign. <b>Foundation Trust:</b> \$4,413,675 - Market loss <b>2021-22 Scholarships:</b> \$413,021 YTD including unrestricted, endowed, and pass through scholarships	<b>Corporate Education (20-21):</b> Companies Served: 156 Individuals Served: 891 <b>Capital Campaign:</b> Lead donors asked on the Archway and Diesel building. Additional naming rights and large asks planned. Embarking on the community engagement phase of the campaign. <b>Foundation Trust:</b> \$4,403,897.17 <b>2020-21 Scholarships:</b> \$1,043,689.28 YTD including unrestricted, endowed, and pass through scholarships <b>Build Dakota:</b> 117 scholarships (96 STM), 59 company partners	<b>Foundation Trust Account:</b> 2021: 4,403,897 2020: \$3,566,635 2019: \$3,410,920 2018: \$3,105,279 2017: \$2,758,668 2016: \$2,234,154 2015: \$2,112,867 <b>Corporate Education:</b> COVID-19 continues to impact the number of companies and individuals served. Numbers are improving.	<b>Corporate Education:</b> Strategic plan to increase the number of companies served after the COVID-19 pandemic, adapting to CDL regulations <b>Apprenticeships:</b> Meat Processing, Tower Technician I (SG), Jack Links- Plant Maintenance, Welding- ESCO newest member, Terex – Field Technician, Brookings Production Technology Consortium <b>UPCOMING EVENTS</b> October 22: Spring Scholarship Cycle ends October 28: Career Expo (152 companies registered) November 19: Festival of Trees January 1 - March 31: Build Dakota Scholarship Cycle
Assessment	Maintain institutional quality as reflected in Higher Learning Commission as well as program accreditations and certifications	<b>Accreditation and Certifications:</b> Accredited and in good standing with industry, state, and national standards including Higher Learning Commission	<b>Higher Learning Commission (HLC) and Program Accreditations:</b> <b>HLC Assessment Academy:</b> Continued work on the Quality Initiative project to enhance co-curricular and general education assessment including outcome mapping. <b>Upcoming Program Accreditations:</b> Occupational Therapy Assistant: 2022 Dental Assisting: 2022 Med/Fire Rescue: 2022	<b>Higher Learning Commission (HLC) and Program Accreditations:</b> 4 year review complete, all criteria met with no monitoring required <b>HLC Assessment Academy:</b> Focused on improving assessment practices across campus as the Quality Initiative project <b>Upcoming Program Accreditations:</b> Occupational Therapy Assistant: 2022 Dental Assisting: 2022 Med/Fire Rescue: 2022	<b>Good Standing:</b> Lake Area Tech and programs are in good standing and meet accreditation standards.	<b>HLC:</b> Highest rating achieved, all criteria met with no monitoring or reporting. The Quality Initiative is the Assessment Academy project led by a committee of faculty and staff with the goal of improving assessment practices campus wide.

**LEGEND** (Goals: Blue = exceeds goal; Green = meets goal; Yellow = slightly below goal; Red = significantly below goal)  
**Trends:** Blue = improving trend; Green = stable trend; Yellow = cautionary trend; Red = trend requires immediate attention/action)



Wednesday, December 8<sup>th</sup> – 2021

TO: State Board of Technical Education  
FROM: Mark Wilson, President  
RE: Brief Updates

1. **Strategic Planning**- The process continues as MTC finishes up the 2017-2022 plan and the planning TEAM will present the new five-year plan in Fall of 2022.
2. **Center for Student Success**- continues to review data, make revisions, and implement best practices/procedures to improve student success. We were very pleased with sustaining an 82% retention rate this past year and our 3-year trend is 83%. MTC is planning to hire another student success coach for the spring semester.
3. **New/Expanded programs for 2022**- MTC is making plans to add Certificate Levels in Electrical Trades and Diesel Power Tech. Currently, we are developing an AAS Option-Entrepreneurship (Business & Service Industries Division) that will initially be designed as a third year for several programs.
4. **MTC holds Donor Appreciation Event** (Thursday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021) MTC Foundation officials celebrated donors at an event with over 125 in attendance. Attendees enjoyed hors d'oeuvres created by the College's very own Culinary Academy of South Dakota, while hearing from board members, staff, faculty, and students about the latest exciting achievements for the Foundation. Nick Bakhtiari, Director of Foundation Relations for MTC, announced that gifts from individuals, industry, faculty, and staff resulted in 226 student scholarships for the 2021-22 academic year. MTC now has 75 Workforce Recruitment and Double Edge industry partners.

MTC Foundation Volunteers and Donors were recognized:

Deb Olson, Volunteerism & Service Award

Emily Bickett and family, Donor Legacy Award

David Zambo, Individual Donor of the Year Award

C & B Operations, Corporate Donor of the Year/ Corey Thelen-Local Manager

MTC's Welding and Manufacturing Technology program was recognized as the Industry of the Year:

- Travis Peterson, program director, a Certified Welding Inspector, Certified Welding Educator, Certified Radiographic Interpreter, Certified Welder and Level 3 Nondestructive tester
- Greg Thibodeau, instructor, OSHA-10-30 certified and an authorized trainer, served 29 years in the US Air Force as a welder/machinist
- Jed Schoenfelder, instructor, Certified Welding Educator, Certified Welding Inspector, Certified Welder with former national commission for the Certification of Crane Operators

5. **Proposed Ag. Power Diesel facility** – Two-page document (attached) was presented to MTC's local Board of Education and will be utilized for the upcoming Legislative Session. Update- the Verizon Tower is currently under construction and should be completed in January of 2022.





*Mitchell Technical College is seeking \$5,000,000 dollars in one-time State/Federal funds, to be matched with MTC's \$5,000,000 from donated and local funds to construct an estimated 55,000 – 60,000 sq. ft. technical lab and shop space for the Agriculture and Diesel Power programs.*

*Currently, MTC students in three programs (Precision Ag, Diesel, and Light Truck), travel to an outdated diesel shop with limited space (7,000 sq. ft.) on the west side of town to complete lab activities and assessments. Agriculture/Precision students do not have a designated technical lab space for large course projects. The additional square footage would have minimal effect to the Technical Colleges' maintenance & repair funds and there will be zero funds in state and/or local bonding.*

*The proposed additional square footage would allow the college to add new dedicated technical lab and shop space, creating an opportunity to greatly expand the scope and depth for educating and training on-campus students, corporate education clients, industry partners, and the region's diverse workforce.*

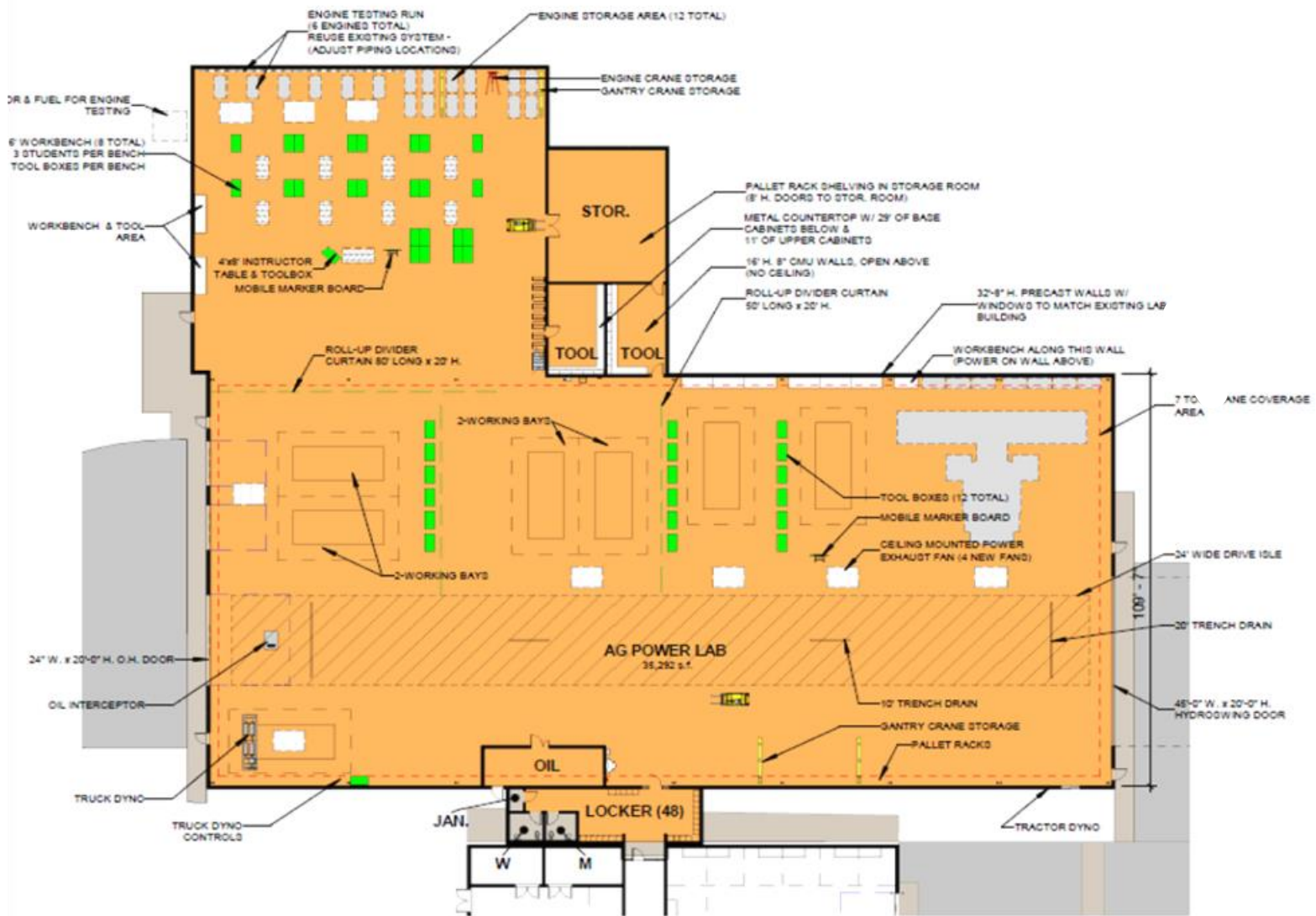
**MTC's Technical Lab & Shop Space: An Investment in the Future of the SD Ag Economy**

1. The proposed technical lab (35,292 sq. ft.) and shop space (TBD) would create an opportunity for program expansion to an estimated additional 50 to 65 students in the Agriculture and Diesel Power programs.
2. The graduation rate for Agriculture and Diesel Power Programs at MTC is 79%; job placement averages 96% for in-field careers; and 92% of graduates are employed in South Dakota.
3. 87.5% of respondents to the 2018 Employer Survey (Ag industry employers) reported that MTC graduates met or exceeded employer expectations. Nearly 92% were either considering or already offering internships to MTC students.
4. Education and training will remain constant and consistent regardless of weather. Currently, hands-on applied learning activities on large Ag equipment is limited to a short window of time from September through November and occasionally in April.
5. The addition of the new technical lab and shop space to the MTC Campus will provide an opportunity to utilize the more than \$6 million in donated Agriculture equipment year-round.
6. Local industry partners will welcome the use of the additional space for on-campus training while having the ability to record and live-stream the training to remote locations. The majority of MTC's Ag-related employers represent implement dealerships and Ag cooperatives. These organizations maintain strong relationships with the college, and subsequently offer critical financial support for scholarships and program support.
7. The additional technical lab and shop space will be outfitted with the highest quality technology on the market. Building upon MTC's nationally recognized Wi-Fi 6 network, the facility will have access to the new Verizon 4G/5G tower that has been recently constructed in November of 2021, on the MTC campus. This capability will ensure that MTC remains a leader in today's newest wireless technology.

By completing the proposed project, the expansion would directly affect seven programs: Agronomy, Precision AG, Animal Science, Powersports, Marine Technology, AG Diesel and Light/Medium Truck Diesel Repair. Currently, these seven programs have 174 enrolled students.

The information below shows the current lab space and how the new building would support the needs of industry by expansion of student growth in these programs.

Program	Current Space	New Lab Space from Project
Precision / Agronomy Tech	0 sq. ft.	4,660 sq. ft.
Powersport Lab	1,750 sq. ft.	4,000 sq. ft.
Marine Tech Lab	2,900 sq. ft.	4,000 sq. ft.
Diesel Power First Year Lab	3,250 sq. ft.	10,000 sq. ft.
Diesel AG 2 <sup>nd</sup> Year Lab	4,660 sq. ft.	10,000 sq. ft.
Diesel Light Truck Lab	6,300 sq. ft.	10,000 sq. ft.
Overall storage for programs	960 sq. ft.	2,000 sq. ft.



## Floor Plan

1" = 30'-0"

35,292 s.f.



Dear State Tech Board Members,

Here are a few STC updates for the December State Board of Technical Education meeting on December 8, 2021.

### **Strategic Planning Update**

Starting this summer, Southeast Tech has been engaged in the development of a new strategic plan for our campus. To assist with this effort, we have hired Rick Melmer (Leadership South Dakota) and Mike Siebersma (Marzano Research) to facilitate surveying and focus group activity. A survey was sent out to industry representatives, employees, community members, and students asking for feedback on Southeast Tech's performance. In addition, as part of our planning process, we hosted a series of six focus group meetings with different campus constituents, including faculty, students, staff, area high schools, and industry & community representatives.

Our next step will be to analyze the survey responses and focus group discussions and update our Strategic Planning Committee. We intend to have a large group planning meeting in mid-December to discuss the results of our surveying and focus group research with industry, community, employee, and student representatives. After that meeting, we hope to have an outline of the strategic initiatives that will drive Southeast Tech moving forward. That information will be shared during our campus-wide professional development activities in January and February. The goal is to have a new strategic plan completed by April 2022.

### **Director of Access and Workforce Opportunity**

In July, Southeast Technical College hired a Director of Access and Workforce Opportunity to help identify and address barriers to college entry and success faced by underserved populations in Sioux Falls. The Director, Marcella Prokop, has assembled an advisory committee comprised of industry and community partners to help shape a vision and goals for this new workforce initiative.

Several main themes or goals have been developed based on discussions with staff, faculty, and the advisory committee. Initial goals include the following:

- Identify barriers to college access and success in order to recruit, enroll, retain and graduate a diverse student body
- Develop a more welcoming, inclusive campus climate
- Identify, employ and retain a diverse staff and faculty
- Uphold an institutional commitment to diversity
- Partner with STC Foundation to locate and secure financial resources





### **HLC Additional Locations Site Visit Approval**

Last summer, Southeast Technical College filed a substantive change request with the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) seeking to have both the Huron Community Center in Huron and the Sanford Health Stevens Center in Sioux Falls be approved as “additional locations” for Southeast Tech.<sup>1</sup> To meet the growing demand in South Dakota for skilled medical professionals, STC has expanded its Registered Nursing (RN), Licensed Practical Nursing (LPN), and Medical Assisting (MA) programs to Huron, SD. The programs are being taught in Huron using the classroom and lab facilities at the Huron Community Campus. The STC Paramedic program uses the medical training facilities at the Sanford Steven’s Center to deliver the programmatic courses of the Paramedic Science program.

In mid-October 2021, an HLC peer reviewer conducted a day-long evaluation visit at each of proposed additional location sites. The visits included interviews with the students; faculty, and staff; and a review of the facilities at both locations to verify student learning expectations and student support services are being met. On November 19, 2021, Southeast Tech received confirmation from the Higher Learning Commission that both the Huron Community Center and Sanford Stevens Center were approved as additional locations for STC. No weaknesses were noted in the HLC evaluator’s report, and no need for any further follow-up by HLC is required at this time.

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<sup>1</sup> The Higher Learning Commission defines an “additional location” as a facility that is geographically apart from the main campus, where instruction takes place and it is possible for students to do the following:

- Complete 50 percent or more of the courses in educational programs leading to a degree, certificate or other recognized educational credential.

# WESTERN DAKOTA TECHNICAL COLLEGE

## **Report to Board of Technical Education**

December 8, 2021

Ann Bolman

([bolman.ann@wdt.edu](mailto:bolman.ann@wdt.edu))

The following topics are included in the PowerPoint presentation:

### **Bellwether College Consortium Futures Assembly**

What does the Bellwether College Consortium's Futures Assembly have in common with the John T. Vucurevich Foundation? Western Dakota Tech, of course.

New Board members are likely not aware that the Vucurevich Foundation has funded WDT's Student Success Coach program since 2016. Their bet was that a carefully crafted success coach program, designed to meet the unique (in South Dakota) needs of WDT's students would increase student retention at WDT to the extent that revenue generated by the improved retention would offset the cost of the coaches. After funding both start-up costs and staffing costs of the Student Success Coach program for six years, the Vucurevich Foundation commissioned a return-on-investment study as part of the final grant year's wrap up.

Benchmark Labs, who has worked with WDT in the past on a broader return on investment study for WDT graduates, was tapped to carry out the study. Data provided here about the Student Success Center project is from the report completed by Dr. McEntaffer of Benchmark Labs in Rapid City. Based on the significant impact on student graduation rates, WDT submitted the WDT Success Coach Model as a Bellwether project for the Futures Assembly.

The Bellwether College Consortium and the Community College Futures Assembly consist of award-winning Colleges charged with addressing critical issues facing community colleges through applicable research and the promotion and replication of best practices addressing workforce development, instructional programs and services, and planning, governance, and finance. The Bellwether Award focuses on cutting-edge, trendsetting programs worthy of replication, and 30 colleges compete for 3 awards each year.

### **Western Dakota Technical College's Bellwether Contest Submission**

For the second time, WDT made the top 10 in the Planning, Governance, and Finance category and will compete in San Antonio in January 2022 for the Bellwether Award in that category. Our Student Success Coach project demonstrates a strategy that other colleges can replicate to make improvements in their college's planning, governance, and/or finance areas.

Understanding what "Success Coach" means in the context of Western Dakota Tech's Success Center is key to understanding why they have had such a positive impact on student graduation rates.

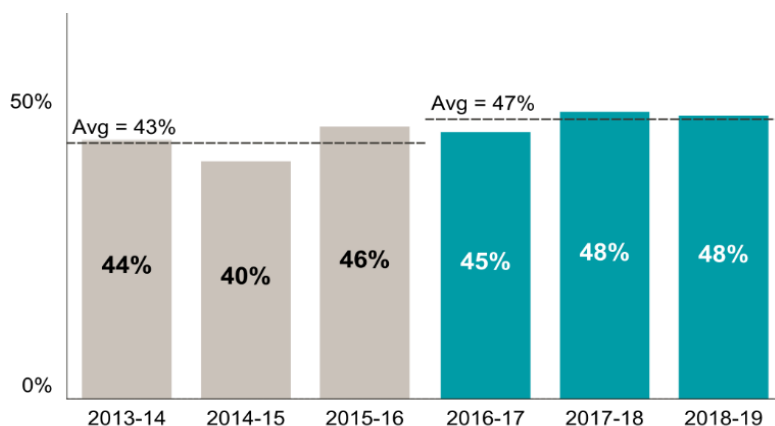
First, success coaches are NOT mental health counselors OR Academic Advisors. (WDT faculty carry out academic advising functions.)

Instead, coaches are available for spontaneous, proactive conversations with students, faculty, and staff—a type of “information central” assisting students with college success strategies on an individualized and group basis, as well as assisting students with specific barriers or struggles connecting to resources in the community that support students’ ability to remain in college. To support WDTC’s student demographics, coaches are “poverty-informed,” highly skilled communicators who use their college process awareness and community connections to coach students towards success. Since the coaching center was established, students have mentioned repeatedly that WDTC feels like home and they appreciate not feeling lost when they encounter a bump in the road. WDTC’s coaches work with assigned programs, so they establish strong partnerships with faculty and really get to know the curriculum and standards for their assigned programs, which is very helpful in coaching students experiencing academic difficulties.

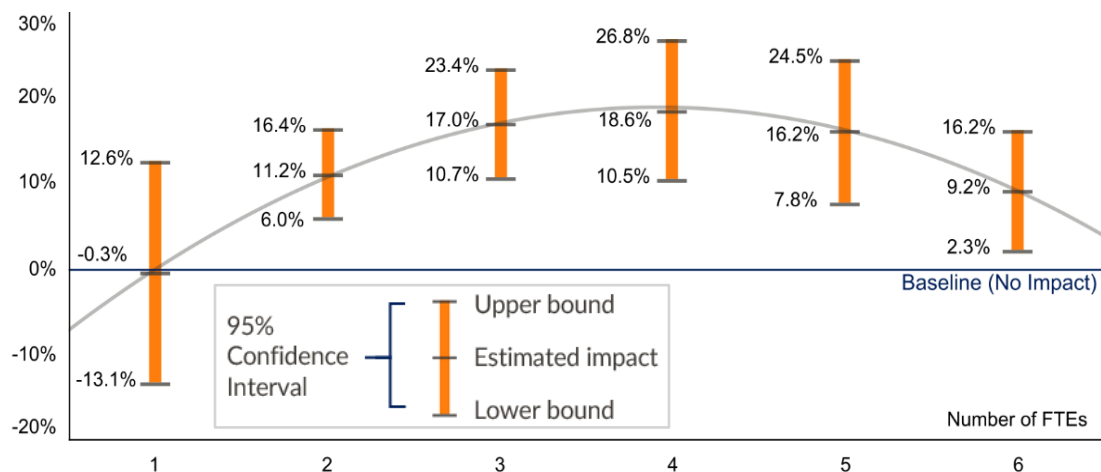
### Coaching Center Graduation Impact

The study by Benchmark Labs shows a 4% increase (Figure 5) in student cohort graduation rates since the implementation of the Success Coach program, which has been funded for six years by the Vucurevich Foundation. The study also reviewed the connection between staffing rates in the SSC and student graduation rates. The study indicates that higher staffing levels do not necessarily lead to higher graduation rates (Figure 8). Our experience indicates that standardized processes within the Success Center that were implemented early on make a difference in the overall workflow and likely decreased some staffing needs.

**Figure 5: Cohort Graduation Rates Before and After the SSC**



**Figure 8: SSC Impact on Graduation Rates by FTE Staffing**



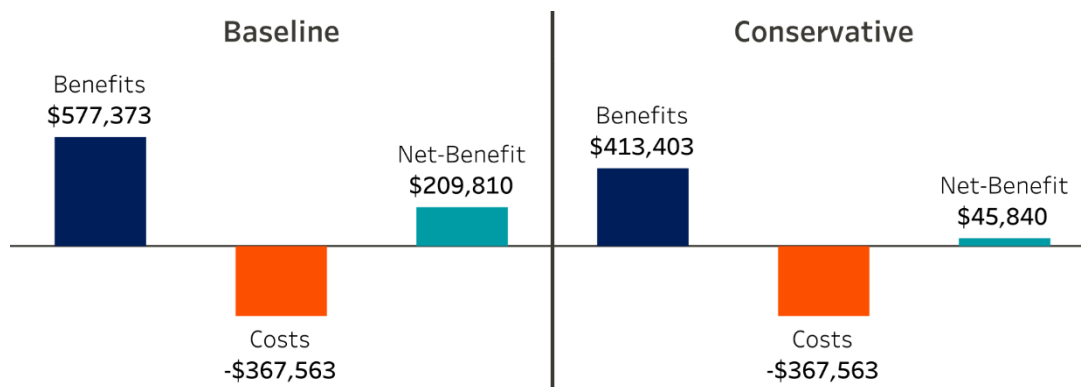
## Return on Investment of Success Coaches

Depending upon the level of conservativeness adopted (Table 3 and Figure 9), the Student Success Center overall led to an annual ROI between 12.5 and 57.1%. Coaches not only improve student retention, but also allow others on campus, including faculty, staff, and administration, to use their work time more productively, which leads to significant savings. Side effects include a less stressful, solutions-oriented campus environment for students and employees alike.

**Table 3: Summary of SSC's Annual Monetary Benefits**

	Baseline Scenario	Conservative Scenario
Productivity Impact	\$122,730	\$122,730
Tuition Impact	\$454,643	\$290,673
<b>Total Benefit</b>	<b>\$577,373</b>	<b>\$413,403</b>

**Figure 9: Annual Return on Investment**



## Aspen Top 150 Colleges

When we received notification that WDT is eligible to apply for the 2023 Aspen Award, we naturally wanted to figure out “why”? What data sets put WDT on their radar? Here’s what the Aspen group saw: WDT is higher than average in all categories: performance, change over time, equity: students of color, and equity: low-income students. (See “Institutional Values,” below.)

Institution Name	Institutional Values										
	Performance					Change Over Time	Equity: Students of Color		Equity: Low-Income Students		
	First-Year Retention Rate	Full-Time, Eight-Year Completion Outcomes	Three-Year Graduation Rate (First-Time, Full-Time Students)	Credentials Awarded per 100 FTE Students	Part-Time, Eight-Year Completion Outcomes	Performance variables - year-to-year increase or decline over 5 years	Three-Year Graduation Rate	Credentials Awarded per 100 FTE Students	Percent of Undergrads Receiving Pell, 2016-17	Graduation Rate of Pell Recipients	Median Family Income of Area
Western Dakota Technical College	57.7%	44.6%	55.0%	63.3%	34.3%	6.2	42.9%	44.8%	44.1%	44.8%	\$77,175
Community College Averages	54.7%	34.2%	45.2%	42.5%	21.8%	1.4	39.6%	28.4%	33.9%	26.4%	\$76,807

In Western Dakota Tech’s cohort retention and graduation models, we have noted a gap between success of white students and Native American students. We have been implementing measures to close the gap. It’s interesting to note, though, that WDT’s Native American students, which typically make up about 10 percent of WDT’s students, graduate within 150% time at rates between 22 to 38%, which is significantly higher than the national average of 150% time at rates between 15 and 20%.



# WESTERN DAKOTA TECHNICAL COLLEGE

The information below is NOT included in the WDTC PowerPoint:

## **Updates on WDT/RCAS Formal Separation Process**

Western Dakota Technical College is reaching the final stages of a complete separation from the Rapid City Area Schools Board. Here is a high-level snapshot of the timeline:

May 2020—Approval from Board of Tech Ed for WDTC to be established as a separate “LEA” (local education agency).

July 1, 2020—New WDTC Board of Trustees established, oriented, sworn in, and trained. We asked the Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) to come for the annual retreat in August, and the team returned in July 2021 as well. This national level training has been very beneficial to our board members on all levels.

July 2, 2021—WDTC rolled out an independent financial system. We have identified our own auditing company as well, and we will no longer be part of the RCAS financial audit effective with FY 2022. (We are still part of the RCAS audit for FY 2021.) We really enjoy being able to see our overall college budget balances at the touch of a button.

January 1, 2022—WDTC will roll out an independent employee health insurance plan (with savings to the College and employees for the same coverage). We have been completing the early enrollment process to move over to the new plan over the last couple of weeks.

## **Updates on New Locations Approved by the Board of Technical Education**

The Licensed Practical Nursing program in Whitewood, South Dakota, enrolled its second cohort of students in August 2021. We will have our first cohort graduate in December 2021. The agreement with the City of Whitewood has been extended for another year, and the Higher Learning Commission’s site visit is scheduled for February 2021.

The Licensed Practical Nursing program in Philip, South Dakota, is expected to begin in the Fall 2022 semester. The health care community in Philip is excited to partner, and the Haakon District is providing the space at a very low cost to WDTC. Some renovations and updates will be occurring over the next couple of months to prepare the site for the nursing cohort. We have submitted paperwork to the Higher Learning Commission for the additional site and are awaiting approval. We do not anticipate any problems with approval.

## **New WDTC Board of Trustees Members Appointed by Governor’s Office**

Lynn Kendall, Linda Rabe, and Andy Scull were recently appointed to the WDTC Board of Trustees. We are very happy to welcome our new Board members and are looking forward to another great year. We are in the process of getting our new trustees “on-boarded” and will be updating our Board of

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# WESTERN DAKOTA TECHNICAL COLLEGE

Trustees website on the WDT.EDU > About > Board of Trustees shortly. If you know any of these new board members, please congratulate them on their appointments! Based on feedback from our current trustees, I know our new board members will enjoy their work with WDTC.

## **Called WDTC Board Meeting**

Because WDTC did not receive the paperwork for the bond refinancing for the technical colleges in time for our regular November 10 Board meeting, WDTC Board members held a called meeting on November 19 to address the item in time for SDHEFA to turn around the paperwork before Thanksgiving. 9 of 9 board members attended the called meeting with exactly 24 hours' notice and approved the paperwork. We appreciate Nick Wendell's participation and answers to questions from board members.

## **Higher Learning Commission 4<sup>th</sup> Year Visit to WDTC**

HLC has scheduled its next visit to WDTC for late March 2022. The College is finishing up the Assurance Argument, reviewing the contents with the campus and Board members, and waiting to hear who our site team members will be.

# HAPPY HOLIDAYS!



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